



Public Notification – 2022 Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Waivers Request

The Puerto Rico's Department of Education, State Agency Food and Nutrition Service will submit statewide waivers to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office (MARO), requesting flexibilities for the operation of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). These waivers will be available for sponsors to serve meals to participants during outbreaks or extraordinary situations related to COVID-19. Also, during an unexpected schools closure due to an emergency that prevent to serve meals in a congregate setting. Sponsors interested in any of the waivers will submit their application to the SA before Monday, May 16, 2022. The following regulations will be considered:

Waiver 1: Non-Congregate Meal Service during Summer 2022 [42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(D), and 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15)] (May 1, 2022-September 30, 2022)

The approval of this waiver would exempt the sponsor to serve meals to the participants in a congregated environment due to an outbreak or extraordinary situation of COVID-19. The SA will approve just sponsors and sites in good standing in a previous program participation.

With FNS approval, SA will allow sponsors to deliver meals to participants' homes. In addition, picked up by parents or guardians to be consumed by children outside of the approved site.

Waiver 2: Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup during Summer 2022 [42 U.S.C. 1761(f)(3), 7 CFR 210.10(a), 7 CFR 220.2, 7 CFR 220.8(a), 7 CFR 225.2, and 7 CFR 225.9(d)(7)] (May 1, 2022-September 30, 2022)

The approval of this waiver will allow the parents or guardians of the participants affected by COVID-19, to collect their meals, to be consumed outside of the approved site.

Waiver 16: Non-Congregate Meal Service during Unanticipated School Closures in SY 2022-23 [42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(D), and 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15)](October 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023)

The approval of this waiver would exempt the sponsor to serve meals to participants in a congregated environment due to unexpected school closure during an emergency.

Waiver 17: Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up during Unanticipated School Closures (SFSP/SSO) [42 U.S.C. 1761(f)(3) and 7 CFR 210.10(a), 220.2 (Breakfast), 220.8(a), 225.2, and 225.9(d)(7)] (October 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023)

The approval of this waiver will allow the parents or guardians of the participants affected by an emergency, to collect their meals, to be consumed outside of the approved site.

Waiver 18: Meal Service Times for Unanticipated School Closures in SY 2022-23 [7 CFR 225.16(c)(1) and 225.16(c)(2)] (October 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023)

Waiver 19: Meals at School Sites for Unanticipated School Closures in SY 2022-23 [42U.S.C. 1761(c)(1) and 7 CFR 225.6(d)(1)(iv)] (October 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023)

Allow sponsors to serve meals to participants in school during a closure of it due to an emergency or unexpected situation.

The objectives of these flexibilities are to continue the free meal service for participants affected by COVID-19 or during an unexpected school closure due an emergency or extraordinary situation. It allow participants to continue receiving nutritious meals and that sponsors can operate a program efficiently and cost-effectively.

Information about the approval or denial of these waiver requests will be provided to sponsors via email once USDA informs us of its determination. For more information, please contact Carmen M. Vega Nevárez, SFSP Coordinator at the email: vega_car@de.pr.gov or Enid Llabrés, Acting SSO Coordinator at: llabres_e@de.pr.gov.